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Obama, Congress Prepare For Veto Showdowns

President Barack Obama is seen in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington. Veto brinkmanship between congressional Republicans and President Barack Obama - virtually absent in his first six years in office -- is about to unleash itself on Washington.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)
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Survivors gather to remember Pearl Harbor attack

JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER
Associated Press

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii
(AP) — Veterans who survived the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor that launched the United States into World War II attended Sunday's 73rd anniversary ceremony with the help of canes, wheelchairs and motorized scooters.

Wearing purple orchid lei, about 100 Pearl Harbor and World War II survivors attended the ceremony overlooking a memorial that sits atop the sunken battleship USS Arizona. Many of them arrived well before the sun came up. This year's anniversary is the 10th consecutive one that USS Utah survivor Gilbert Meyer has attended. But it's getting harder for Meyer, 91, to travel to Hawaii from San Antonio, Texas. Asked if he planned to attend next year's anniversary, he responded with a chuckle, "That's like asking me if I'll still be alive."

Harold Johnson, 90, is making it a goal to attend the 75th anniversary, even though traveling from Oak Harbor, Washington state, isn't always easy. "I've got a little scooter that's a real life saver," the USS Oklahoma survivor said.

Johnson had been aboard the Oklahoma for just six months on Dec. 7, 1941, looking forward to a day off and a "date with a little Hawaiian girl." He was shining his shoes when the first alarm went off, he recalled.

"Three months later I ran into her in town in Honolulu," he said of his date. "She was mad at me because I stood her up."

For many of the roughly 2,000 survivors who remain, there are also more painful memories. Keynote speaker Gen. Lori Robinson, commander of Pacific Air Forces, told the crowd of several thousand about four of the nine remaining survivors of the USS Arizona. Don Stratton, 92, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Lauren Bruner, 94, of La Mirada, California, were two of six men who escaped the inferno that engulfed the forward half of the ship by negotiating a line, hand over hand, about 45 feet (13.5



A Navy sailor escorts Navy veteran and Pearl Harbor survivor John Chapman during a ceremony to mark the 73rd anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Sunday, Dec. 7, 2014, at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The attack launched the U.S. into World War II.

(AP Photo/Jennifer Sinco Kelleher)

meters) in the air, despite burns to more than 60 percent of their bodies. John Anderson, 97, of Roswell, New Mexico, was ordered off the ship, but he didn't want to leave behind his twin brother, Delbert. Even

though he was forced into a small boat that took him to Ford Island, he commandeered an empty boat and returned to the Arizona to rescue three shipmates. But he never found his brother. □

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Obama, Congress prepare for veto showdowns

CHARLES BABINGTON
JIM KUHNHENN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Veto brinkmanship between congressional Republicans and President Barack Obama was virtually absent in his first six years in office, but it's about to unleash itself on Washington. Until now, controversial Republican-backed legislation rarely reached the president's desk because Senate Democrats blocked it. Starting in January, however, Republicans will control both the House and Senate, and Obama may have to decide more often whether to sign or veto Republican-crafted bills.

Obama gave lawmakers an early taste of veto



Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., speaks in Columbia, S.C. Veto brinkmanship between congressional Republicans and President Barack Obama - virtually absent in his first six years in office -- is about to unleash itself on Washington. Until now, controversial Republican-backed legislation rarely reached the president's desk, because Senate Democrats blocked it. Starting in January, however, Republicans will control both the House and Senate, and Obama may often have to decide whether to sign or veto GOP-crafted bills.

(AP Photo/Rainier Ehrhardt)

politics recently when he forced congressional leaders to drop a proposed package of tax breaks that were popular with many Republican constituents. Some Democrats did support the plan, but liberals and the White House said it tilted too heavily toward corporations, not lower-income workers.

The White House also has promised to veto any bills restricting the president's major changes to immigration policies, setting up likely showdowns early next year.

Obama's threats present the type of bind that Republicans may face repeatedly in the next two years.

They can agree to many or all of the changes he demands in legislation, or they can let him use his veto and hope Americans will blame him more than them.

It's a gamble, especially with critical spending bills Congress soon must address. Some Republicans want to amend these must-pass bills to thwart Obama's bid to protect millions of immigrants, now in the country illegally, from deportation.

Assuming Obama keeps his veto promise, Republican lawmakers would have to decide whether to drop their demands or let parts of the federal government close for lack of money. Republican leaders say there will be no shutdowns, but they have yet to explain how they can force Obama to back off on immigration.

The 2013 partial government shutdown occurred under similar partisan circumstances. Polls show the public blamed congressional Republicans more than

the Democratic president. It's unclear how often Obama will face a veto decision. Even in the minority, Democratic senators can use the filibuster, the name for unlimited debate, to block a final vote on many measures that break strictly along party lines.

But some proposals, such as building the Keystone XL pipeline from Canada to the Gulf Coast, enjoy significant bipartisan support. They might attract enough Democratic backing to reach the 60 Senate votes needed to overcome a filibuster and send the measure to Obama.

White House senior adviser Dan Pfeiffer said if Congress assembles legislation that Obama opposes, the White House will threaten vetoes and "if Congress decides to pass them anyway, then we'll veto them." "We're not going to go out looking for them, but we're not going to run from them either," he said.

Should Obama veto a proposal such as the Keystone project, the question would be whether two-thirds of the Senate and two-thirds of the House would vote to defy him. That's the constitutional threshold for overriding a veto.

It will be critical for Republicans to put together veto-proof majorities in the House and Senate. Because any bill would require 60 Senate votes to overcome filibusters, the Senate vote would always be bipartisan and closer to the two-thirds majority needed to override a veto. But the House would be harder, giving House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California greater sway in the end over the outcome of legislation. □

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House Intelligence chief: Reports will spur attacks

KEN DILANIAN

AP Intelligence Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Foreign governments and U.S. intelligence agencies are predicting that the release of a Senate report examining the use of torture by the CIA will cause "violence and deaths" abroad, the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee said Sunday.

Republican Rep. Mike Rogers is regularly briefed on intelligence assessments. He told CNN's "State of the Union" that U.S. intelligence agencies and foreign governments have said privately that the release of the report on CIA interrogations a decade ago will be used by extremists to incite violence that is likely to cost lives. The 480-page report, a summary of a still-classified 6,000-page study, is expected to be made public next week. A U.S. intelligence official, who was not authorized to be quoted discussing classified intelligence assessments, said Congress had been warned "of the heightened potential that the release could stimulate a violent response."

On Friday, Secretary of State John Kerry urged the senator in charge of the report to consider the timing of the release, though Obama administration officials say they still support making it public. Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein, chairwoman of the Senate Intel-

ligence Committee, has not responded to reports of the Kerry call, though she told the Los Angeles Times in a story published Sunday that "We have to get this report out."

A congressional aide noted that the White House has led negotiations to declassify the report since April, and that both the president and his director of national intelligence have endorsed its release. The government has taken steps to beef up security at American posts around the world, said the aide, who was not authorized to be quoted by name and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The report amounts to the first public accounting of the CIA's use of torture on al-Qaida detainees held in secret facilities in Europe and Asia in the years after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. U.S. officials who have read it say it includes disturbing new details about the CIA's use of such techniques as sleep deprivation, confinement in small spaces, humiliation and the simulated drowning process known as waterboarding. President Barack Obama has acknowledged, "We tortured some folks." The report also says the torture failed to produce life-saving intelligence, a conclusion disputed by current and former intelligence officials, including CIA director John Brennan. □



House Speaker John Boehner wraps up a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, following a House GOP caucus meeting. Republicans retained control of two seats in runoffs in Louisiana Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014, and now have at least 246 seats in the House, matching the post-World War II high during the Truman administration. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

House Republicans match post-WW II high

DONNA CASSATA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans will hold at least 246 seats in the House of Representatives in January, a commanding majority that matched the post-World War II high of the Truman administration. Republicans will expand their current 234-201 advantage by a dozen seats in the next Congress, with one race still undecided. On Saturday, the party kept control of two Louisiana seats in runoff elections.

Republicans will run the Senate, too. That means the party will control both

chambers of Congress for the final two years of President Barack Obama's second term.

The latest count gives the Republicans a 246-188 majority. One race, in Arizona, is still outstanding.

In a Democratic-held district in the Tucson, Arizona-area, an automatic recount will determine whether Rep. Ron Barber keeps his seat or Republican challenger Martha McSally prevails. McSally led by fewer than 200 votes. If McSally wins, Republicans would have 247 seats, the largest majority since 1929-31 when the party controlled 270 seats in President

Herbert Hoover's administration. In the midterm election rout, House Republicans prevailed in Democratic territory, netting 12 seats and winning in New York, Illinois, Maine, New Hampshire and Iowa. Republican challengers knocked out long-term Democratic incumbents in Georgia and West Virginia, seats that the party now could hold for generations as it maintains its hold on the South.

Democrats had held out hope of minimizing their losses despite Obama's low popularity and historic losses for the party occupying the White House. □



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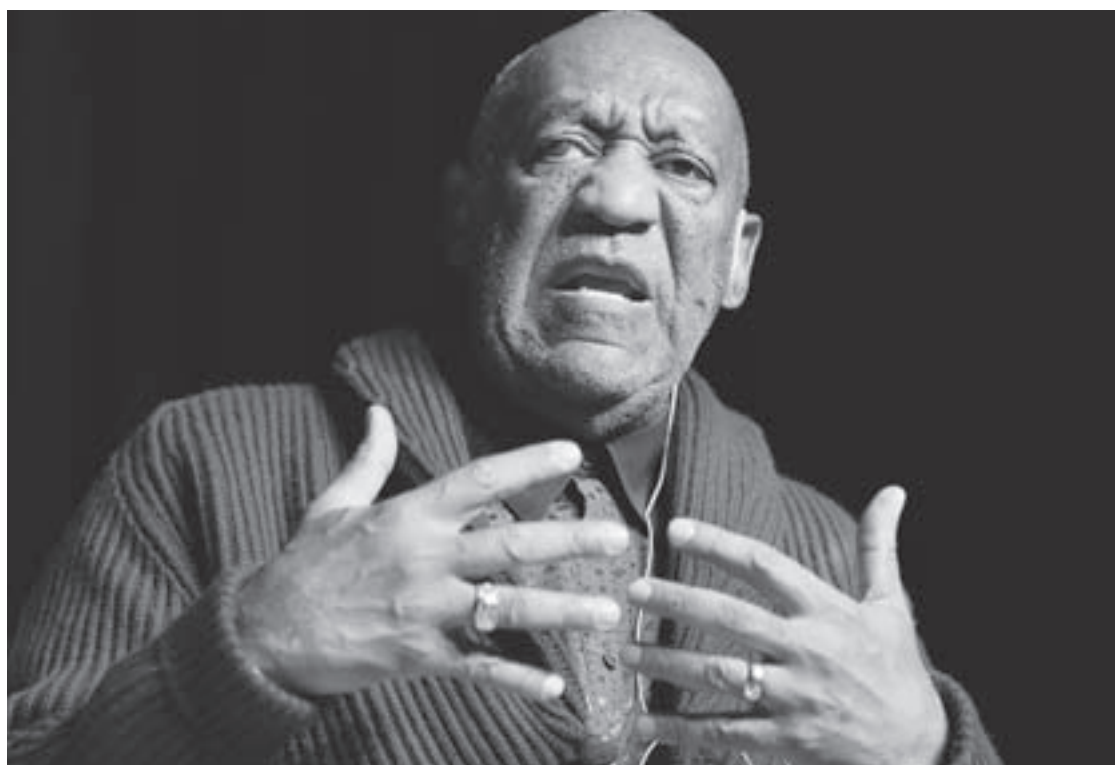
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Passage of time makes proving Cosby claims tough



In this November, 2013 photo, comedian Bill Cosby performs at the Stand Up for Heroes event at Madison Square Garden in New York. Legal experts say any case centering on decades-old sexual assault allegations against Cosby would face hurdles.

(John Minchillo/Invision/AP)

ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Any case against Bill Cosby — who in recent weeks has seen a flurry of decades-old sexual assault allegations, a lawsuit and a police investigation into a molestation claim — would rely on conflicting testimony, and possibly jurors' emotions, legal experts say. In a civil trial, Cosby might

have to face testimony from any of the more than 15 women who have accused him of various forms of sexual misconduct dating back at least 40 years, said Cynthia Bowman, a Cornell Law School professor who has specialized in how the law treats women. While any case dating back decades would hinge on memories that have faded with time, Bowman

said she's listened to some of Cosby's accusers speak out — and they could be credible witnesses. "A lot of these cases hinge on he-said, she-said, anyway," Bowman said. "It strikes me that memory for a traumatic event like this seems to be pretty stark," Bowman said. Most of these allegations involved "relatively young and impressionable girls,"

she said. "There's an element of shock and betrayal of trust." Since the allegations of sexual assault by the comedian and actor bubbled to the surface again in early November, only one woman, Judy Huth, has sued, claiming Cosby molested her 40 years ago when she was 15. Huth also gave a statement to Los Angeles police, who opened an investigation Friday. Los Angeles Police Chief Charlie Beck also said his department would investigate any allegations against Cosby, regardless of whether a prosecution would be barred by the statute of limitations. Cosby, 77, has never been charged with a crime and settled the only other sexual assault case filed against him. In that case filed by former Temple University worker Andrea Constand in 2005, numerous women were prepared to testify against Cosby with their own stories of alleged abuse. The most recent round of accusations range from claims of being groped to being drugged and raped. Cosby is the latest entertainment figure to contend with high-profile litigation accusing him of sexual

abuse. Oscar-nominated actor John Travolta and "X-Men" franchise director Bryan Singer have been sued by men accusing them of sexual misconduct, although the cases were dismissed before ever reaching trial. The wife of "7th Heaven" actor Stephen Collins has accused him in divorce proceedings of abusing underage girls, although the actor has never been charged. Some of the cases were dismissed after attorney Marty Singer — who also represents Cosby — demonstrated the accusers made inconsistent or inaccurate statements in their complaints. Singer has released statements on a handful of the accusations against Cosby denying the claims; in a legal filing in response to Huth's lawsuit, he accused Huth of attempting to extort \$250,000 from Cosby in return for her silence and unsuccessfully trying to sell her story about the allegations to a tabloid a decade ago. Huth's sexual battery lawsuit accuses Cosby of forcing her to perform a sex act on him in a bedroom of the Playboy Mansion around 1974. It remains uncertain whether her case will survive, and attorney Gloria Allred, who represents Huth, declined to answer questions about it on Friday. Huth or any accuser whose case reached the trial stage could be seen favorably by a jury, said Jerry Reisman, a civil litigation attorney in Garden City, New York, who has handled sex abuse cases. □

Family: Stabbing suspect needs mental help

SAGINAW, Michigan (AP) — The 89-year-old grandmother of a Michigan man charged with attempted murder in the stabbings of three other passengers and a conductor aboard an Amtrak passenger train says he needs psychological

help. Ethel Williams told The Associated Press during a phone interview Sunday that her grandson Michael Williams was never the same after military service. She says the 44-year-old Saginaw man once told

her "it seemed like everywhere he goes people was following him." The stabbings occurred Friday night as the Chicago-to-Port Huron train was stopped in Niles in southwestern Michigan, about 10 miles (16 kilometers)

north of South Bend, Indiana. Niles police said Sunday that the victims remain in stable condition. Pentagon spokesman Lt. Colonel Jeff Pool was not able Sunday to verify if Williams had served in the military. □

Madoff workers in epic fraud face sentencing

LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Imprisoned financier Bernard Madoff's former director of operations for investments faces sentencing Monday, the first of five Madoff ex-employees to learn their fate in coming days after a jury convicted them earlier this year of charges related

— all of them — in making important life decisions. Some people retired because they thought their money was safe. Others bought a home. All of them lost everything. Charities collapsed. University endowments shrank overnight. Pension plans ... lost millions upon millions. Any one of these five defen-

er but "took on an active and ambitious role," was next while the computer programmers were slightly less culpable than Crupi. Prosecutors recommend Bonventre receive significantly more than the 20 years suggested by the Probation Department, saying he had lied to the Internal Revenue Service, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the jury and the judge. "Bonventre's hubris and lack of remorse is simply staggering," prosecutors wrote in court papers. In court papers, lawyers for Bonventre noted that their client turns 68 this month and that a sentence of any length would amount to a life term. Like defense lawyers for the others, they portrayed their client as

a victim of a controlling and evil man. They recommended Bonventre receive home confinement, community service or a short term of incarceration. "Most of us would like to believe that when confronted with Mr. Bonventre's situation, we would have had the fortitude, integrity or ability to stand up to Mr. Madoff, would have seen through his manipulations, and disassociated ourselves from the only real job we had ever known. Perhaps some of us would have been successful in doing so. Others not as much," they wrote. They added that even leniency "will not remove the millstone that Mr. Bonventre is doomed to carry around his neck to the grave." □



Daniel Bonventre, right, a former employee of Bernard Madoff, arrives before appearing in federal court in New York. Bonventre, the first of five ex-employees of imprisoned Ponzi king Bernard Madoff is scheduled to be sentenced Monday, Dec. 8, 2014 after a New York jury convicted them earlier this year.
(AP Photo/Craig Ruffalo)

to the multi-decade, multi-billion dollar fraud. Federal sentencing guidelines for several Madoff defendants call for prison terms even longer than the 150 years Madoff received, but even prosecutors acknowledged that was not necessary while still urging "a severe sanction, proportionate to their roles in this historic fraud." The government seeks prison terms of more than a decade for each, saying they are the most culpable besides Madoff himself for a fraud that cost thousands of investors nearly \$20 billion when it was revealed with Madoff's December 2008 arrest. Their crimes involved ongoing and systematic deception; for years, they repeatedly lied to investors, regulators, auditors, and banks," the government said in court papers. "The defendants — all of them — falsified literally millions of pages of documents and engaged in a series of almost comic efforts to further the fraud. "Ordinary people and sophisticated investors alike relied on documents created by the defendants

dants could have stopped it decades ago. Instead, they chose to personally profit," it said. Defense attorneys are requesting leniency, with some saying incarceration is unnecessary. After Daniel Bonventre, 67, hears his sentence, the following days will bring Madoff's former secretary, Annette Bongiorno, 66, computer programmers Jerome O'Hara, 51, and George Perez, 48, and account manager JoAnn Crupi, 53, before U.S. District Judge Laura Taylor Swain. The government has asked that they be immediately incarcerated while defense lawyers have requested they be freed on bail pending appeal. Prosecutors say all five deserve stiffer sentences than Madoff's brother, Peter, who received a maximum 10-year sentence after the one-time compliance director for Madoff's firm pleaded guilty to charges. They said Bonventre and Bongiorno were the most culpable of the five because of their "40-year involvement at the very heart of the fraud." They said Crupi, who joined lat-

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For US unemployed, job market hits a turning point

C. S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Look past the booming November job gain of 321,000 reported Friday — the best figure in three years in the strongest year for U.S. hiring since 1999.

The job market has reached a new milestone on its road to full health: For the first time since the Great Recession ended 5½ years ago, America's unemployed are now as likely to be hired as to stop looking for a job.

It means that employers have grown confident enough to fill more job vacancies. And it means the unemployed are now less likely to succumb to frustration.

The hiring surge owes much to solid consumer spending — on items like cars, electronics and restaurant meals. That, in turn, has given businesses the means to step up investment in machinery, computers and facilities. Thanks to such spending, the economy grew at a 4.3 percent annual pace from April through September — the healthiest six-month spurt since 2003. Employers have responded by adding a robust average of 241,000 jobs a month this year.

For each month, the government estimates the proportion of the unemployed who found work and the proportion who stopped looking. In November, 23 percent of people who were out of work the previous month found jobs, and the same percentage gave up looking. (The figures are three-month averages, intended to smooth out volatility.)

That was the highest percentage of the unem-

ployed to find work in any month since the recession officially ended in June 2009. A year ago, fewer than 19 percent of the unemployed were finding

a single interview until November, when she got four. Two of the interviews produced offers. She's accepted a position at Mutual of Omaha, where she

gan in 1990. Since the recession ended, that's been true for only three months out of 65.

One sour note amid the improving outlook for the

looking for a job, they're no longer counted as unemployed. At that point, the unemployment rate can fall even if hiring is weak. But now, the number of such dropouts has plateaued.

The figures that show the unemployed are now as likely to get a job as to stop seeking one mean that fewer will end up jobless for prolonged periods. Research has shown that the longer people are unemployed, the more reluctant employers are to hire them. "This is one of the most important indicators, because if this rate doesn't pick up, then long-term unemployment persists," said Aysegul Sahin, vice president for research at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Companies are advertising the most jobs in nearly 14 years. And more Americans are quitting their jobs for better opportunities. That provides openings for others. Employers hired just over 5 million people in September, the most in nearly seven years. That figure reflects total hiring. By contrast, November's 321,000 job gain is a net figure: Total hiring minus layoffs, quits and retirements. Early in the recovery, each month's net job gain was driven more by fewer layoffs than by more hiring. That helped explain why the unemployed had such trouble finding work. Landing a job remains much easier for those who have been unemployed only briefly. For those out of work for six months or less, 31 percent found jobs in October. For those unemployed for more than six months, the rate was just 14 percent. □



Job seekers fill out forms before being interviewed during a job fair at Fontainebleau Miami Beach in Miami Beach, Fla. The recovery of the U.S. job market has reached a new milestone on its road to full health: For the first time since the Great Recession ended 5½ years ago, America's unemployed are now as likely to be hired as to stop looking for a job.

(AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee)

jobs.

The increase marks the first such sustained improvement since the recession ended. This year's acceleration in hiring has been potent enough to finally soak up a significant proportion of the jobless. During the first four years of the recovery, businesses had hired at a rate that was merely enough to keep up with population growth.

The brightening picture has been a relief for people like Kersten Higgins, who had begun job hunting in July after graduating from law school. She didn't get

will help ensure that its insurance policies comply with federal rules. Higgins, 26, who lives in Omaha, Nebraska, starts Monday.

"I feel great," Higgins said. "This definitely fits into the category of jobs I hoped to get coming out of law school."

At the same time, the government's jobs figures illustrate how much improvement is still needed. Before the recession began in 2007, the unemployed were more likely to find work than to stop looking in every month dating to when record-keeping be-

unemployed: The jobless are likelier now than before the recession to land only part-time work. Though the economy has regained all the jobs lost to the recession, there are still nearly 2 million fewer people with full-time work.

In other cases, the jobs the formerly unemployed have now pay less than those they had before.

One reason the unemployment rate declined early in the recovery was that hundreds of thousands of people grew frustrated with their job hunts and stopped looking. Once people stop

Syria says Israeli airstrikes hit near Damascus

ALBERT AJI
RYAN LUCAS

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) —

Israeli warplanes bombed two areas near Damascus on Sunday, striking near the city's international airport as well as outside a town close to the Lebanese border, the Syrian military said. Since Syria's conflict began in March 2011, Israel has carried out several airstrikes in Syria that have targeted sophisticated weapons systems, including Russian-made anti-aircraft missiles and Iranian-made missiles, believed to be destined for Israel's arch foe - the Lebanese Hezbollah militant group.

Israel has never confirmed the strikes, and on Sunday the Israeli military said it does not comment on "foreign reports."

The Syrian armed forces' general command said Sunday's "flagrant attack" caused material damage, but did not provide any details on what was hit near the airport or in the town of Dimas, which is northwest of Damascus along the main

highway from the capital to the Lebanese frontier.

"This aggression demonstrates Israel's direct involvement in supporting terrorism in Syria along with well-known regional and Western countries to raise the morale of terrorist groups, mainly the Nusra Front," the military said in a statement carried by SANA. There is no evidence that Israel has provided any support to the Nusra Front, which is al-Qaida's affiliate in Syria.

The director of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, Rami Abdurrahman, said the strike near the Damascus international airport targeted a depot for newly arrived weapons at a military facility that is part of the airport.

The strikes near Dimas, he said, went after weapons depots in hangars in and around a small air base. It was not clear whether those weapons were for the Syrian government or for Hezbollah. He had no word on casualties.

The Britain-based Observatory monitors Syria's civil



This photo shows a general view of damaged buildings wrecked by an Israeli airstrike, in Damascus, Syria. Israeli warplanes carried out two airstrikes Sunday near Damascus, one near the city's international airport and a second outside a town close to the Lebanese border, Syria's state news agency said. (AP Photo/SANA)

war through a network of activists on the ground.

While Israel has tried to stay out of the war in neighboring Syria, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly threatened to take military action to prevent Syria from transferring sophisticated weapons to its ally Hezbollah. Israel and Hezbollah are bitter ene-

mies and fought an intense monthlong war in 2006.

In May 2013, a series of Israeli airstrikes near Damascus targeted what Israeli officials said were shipments of Iranian-made Fateh-110 missiles bound for Hezbollah.

In eastern Syria on Sunday, Syrian warplanes carried out at least 11 airstrikes of

their own against Islamic State militants attacking a key military air base, activists said.

The Islamic State group launched its assault on the sprawling air field just outside of the city of Deir el-Zour last week, touching off fighting that activists say has killed more than 150 people on both sides. □

Yemen says US-led raid killed 10 Qaida fighters

AHMED AL-HAJ
Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — A high-risk, U.S.-led raid attempting to rescue hostages in Yemen a day earlier killed 10 al-Qaida militants, Yemeni security officials said Sunday.

The captives — American photojournalist Luke Somers and South African teacher Pierre Korkie — died of wounds sustained during the raid.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters. About 40 American special operations forces were involved in the rescue attempt, which followed U.S. drone strikes in the area, U.S. officials said.

Following a firefight with militants, the rescuers eventually reached the men and found them alive but gravely wounded.

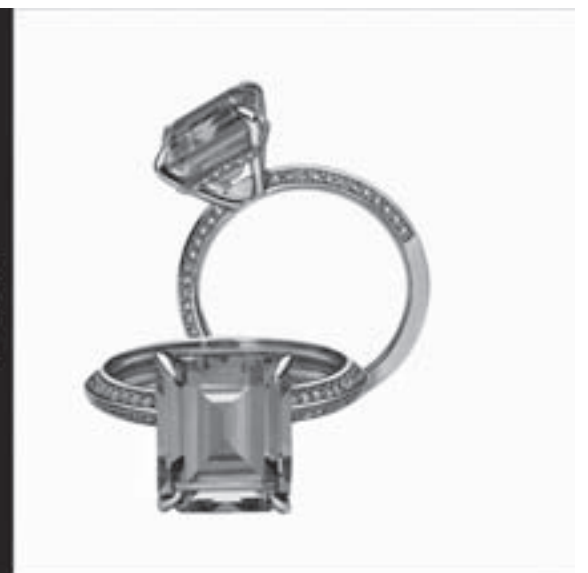
They both died shortly after.

On Thursday, al-Qaida released a video showing Somers and threatening to kill him in three days if the U.S. did not meet the group's unspecified demands.

In South Africa, Korkie's body is expected to arrive from Yemen on Monday, according to a government statement issued Sunday.

"The South African government sends deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Korkie for their loss. Condolences are also conveyed to the family and loved ones of the deceased American hostage," said the government statement.

Korkie's widow, Yolande, and their two children have gone to a secluded place to grieve, said family friend Daan Nortier. □



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Mexico officials confirm ID in case of missing 43

C. SHERMAN

E. CASTILLO

Associated Press

EL PERICON, Mexico (AP)

— A steady stream of neighbors, friends and classmates stepped into the half-light of Ezequiel Mora's two-room adobe home Sunday to offer their condolences for the death of his son Alexander, the first of 43 missing college students to be confirmed dead.

In grey slacks, a navy blue shirt and leather sandals, Mora received his visitors with red, sleepless eyes, accepting their words with a slight nod and a lingering degree of disbelief.

Alexander Mora Venancio, 19, the second-youngest of eight siblings, had dreamed of becoming a physical education

teacher, an ambitious goal for a kid from this tiny agricultural community deep in the mountains of the Costa Chica region of Guerrero state.

"They took my son's dream," the 63-year-old Mora said.

Attorney General Jesus Murillo Karam confirmed Sunday that the son had been identified from charred remains found several weeks ago near a garbage dump in Cocula, Guerrero. The DNA was matched from material extracted from a bone fragment and analyzed by forensics experts at a laboratory in Innsbruck, Austria.

"He was a classmate who was very strong, very persevering in whatever he had as a goal," student



Ezequiel Mora, father of Alexander Mora, one of 43 college students missing since September whose body has now been positively identified among charred remains found near a garbage dump, stands next to an altar in his son's memory, at their home in the town of El Pericon, Mexico, Sunday Dec. 7, 2014. A family member of another missing student told The Associated Press that the remains were of Alexander Mora.

(AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo)

leader Omar Garcia said of Mora. "It's a big loss."

The attorney general said 80 people have been arrested so far, including 44 police officers from the cities of Iguala and Cocula and former Iguala

Mayor Jose Luis Abarca, who is under investigation for ordering the Sept. 26 attacks. The case also forced the governor of Guerrero to resign.

The identification confirmed what Murillo

Karam told parents in November: that the students rounded up in a conflict with police had been killed and incinerated by the local drug gang, Guerreros Unidos. Horror, hope — and the lack of positively identified remains — led parents to discount the story, saying they would keep searching and expected to find their children alive.

In El Pericon, people say drug gangs ran the area until two years ago, killing, kidnapping and extorting at will. That changed when the people rose up and organized their own security forces, fed up with the ineffectual government police.

On Sunday, a young man with a rifle slung over his shoulder leaned against a pile of sandbags just behind Mora's home. □

Pakistan:

Top al-Qaida militant killed in raid

MUNIR AHMED

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP)

— Pakistani soldiers killed a top al-Qaida operative Saturday who was indicted in the U.S. for his alleged involvement in a plot to bomb New York's subway system, the military said in a statement.

The death of Adnan Shukrijumah is the latest blow to the terror organization still reeling from the 2011 killing of leader Osama bin Laden and now largely eclipsed by the militant Islamic State group. It also marks a major achievement for the Pakistani military, which mounted a widespread military operation in the northwest this summer.

The military announced Shukrijumah's death in a statement, saying that he

was killed along with two other suspected militants in Pakistan's South Waziristan tribal area early Saturday. South Waziristan is part of the mountainous territory bordering Afghanistan that is home to various militant groups fighting both in Afghanistan and Pakistan. "The al-Qaida leader, who was killed by the Pakistan army in a successful operation, is the same person who had been indicted in the United States," said a senior Pakistani army officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to talk to journalists. As al-Qaida's head of external operations, the 39-year-old Shukrijumah occupied a position once held by Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. The

FBI lists the Saudi-born Shukrijumah as a "most wanted" terrorist and the U.S. State Department had offered up to a \$5 million reward for his capture.

Federal prosecutors in the U.S. allege Shukrijumah had recruited three men in 2008 to receive training in the lawless tribal region of Pakistan for the subway attack. The three traveled to Pakistan to avenge the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan but were persuaded by al-Qaida operatives to return to the United States for a suicide-bombing mission against a major target such as the New York Stock Exchange, Times Square or Grand Central Terminal.

Eventually, the men settled on a plot to blow themselves up at rush hour, according to testimony in federal court. □

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No major damage in Philippine typhoon; 3 dead

TERESA CEROJANO

Associated Press

LEGAZPI, Philippines (AP) —

Typhoon Hagupit knocked out power, left at least three people dead and sent nearly 900,000 into shelters before it weakened Sunday, sparing the central Philippines the type of massive devastation that a monster storm brought to the region last year.

Shallow floods, damaged shanties and ripped off store signs and tin roofs were a common sight across the region, but there was no major destruction after Hagupit slammed into Eastern Samar and other island provinces. It was packing maximum sustained winds of 140 kilo-

meters (87 miles) per hour and gusts of 170 kph (106 mph) on Sunday, considerably weaker from its peak power but still a potentially deadly storm, according to forecasters.

The typhoon, which made landfall in Eastern Samar late Saturday, was moving slowly, dumping heavy rain that could possibly trigger landslides and flash floods. Traumatized by the death and destruction from Typhoon Haiyan last year, nearly 900,000 people fled to about 1,000 emergency shelters and safer grounds. The government, backed by the 120,000-strong military, had launched massive preparations to attain a zero-casualty target.

Rhea Estuna, a 29-year-



Families prepare to return to their homes after evacuating to avoid a typhoon, in Legazpi, Philippines, Dec. 7, 2014. As Typhoon Hagupit churned across the Philippines on Sunday, residents of the eastern part of the island nation expressed relief that they had joined the hundreds of thousands who evacuated to safer ground.

(Jes Aznar/The New York Times)

Swiss hostage escapes from Filipino militants

JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) —

A Swiss hostage made a dramatic escape Saturday from Abu Sayyaf extremists when he hacked a rebel commander and then got shot as he dashed to freedom amid a military bombardment, ending more than two years of jungle captivity in the southern Philippines, officials said.

Lorenzo Vinciguerra, 49, made his daring escape while government forces were firing artillery rounds near the jungle forest where he was being held in mountainous Patikul town in Sulu province. He grabbed a long knife, hacked an Abu Sayyaf commander and then ran away, but was shot and wounded by another militant, security officials said. Philippine army scout rangers later found him and escorted him to safety.

"He was wounded, but he's well and recovering in a hospital," regional military commander Lt. Gen. Rustico Guerrero said by phone.

In Bern, the Swiss government expressed relief that Vinciguerra had regained his freedom, but regretted that his Dutch companion remained in captivity.

While lying later in a military combat hospital bed, his head wrapped in a bandage, Vinciguerra basked in his hard-won freedom and thanked the military. He said he was happy because he can finally spend Christmas with his family, but worried about his companion, Ewold Horn, who was still in Abu Sayyaf custody in Sulu's jungles.

"I talked to him and asked him to join me, but he refused," Vinciguerra said of Horn, adding that the Dutchman had teeth problems and other ailments.

old mother of one, fled Thursday to an evacuation center in Tacloban — the city hardest-hit by Haiyan — and waited in fear as Hagupit's wind and rain lashed the school where she and her family sought refuge. When she peered outside Sunday, she said she saw a starkly different aftermath than the one

she witnessed after Haiyan struck in November 2013.

"There were no bodies scattered on the road, no big mounds of debris," Estuna told The Associated Press by cellphone. "Thanks to God this typhoon wasn't as violent."

Haiyan's tsunami-like storm surges and killer winds left thousands of people dead

and leveled entire villages, most of them in and around Tacloban.

Nearly a dozen countries, led by the United States and the European Union, have pledged to help in case of a catastrophe from Hagupit (pronounced HA'-goo-pit), disaster-response agency chief Alexander Pama said.

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Jamaica sees success in curbing killings by police

DAVID McFADDEN
Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— Jamaican police have often been viewed with suspicion and fear, routinely accused of indiscriminately using their weapons and intentionally killing suspects as the island struggled with soaring violent

praise from human rights activists and making officers more welcome in some of Jamaica's grittiest districts.

The number of citizens killed by police is expected to reach just over 100 this year, far below the 258 slain last year by security forces. The annual total of

Ramsay, a mother of three in the rough east Kingston neighborhood of Rockfort. "It's gotten to the point where I prefer seeing the police around here than not seeing them."

There seems to be a mix of reasons for the reduction, but perhaps the biggest is a new-found fear among

security forces killed 70 civilians in Kingston during an operation to capture a fugitive gang leader. Police had disputed the agency's authority, but last year the courts ruled it has the right to arrest and charge officers, previously the role of an internal police bureau and public prosecutors.

The increasingly robust commission is now advancing high-profile investigations against lawmen, including a probe of 11 officers in a single police division in the central parish of Clarendon. After those officers were hit with murder charges earlier this year, a big drop in police-related fatalities followed across Jamaica. There also were two successful convictions this year of police personnel who failed to cooperate with commission investigators.

"A clear message is being sent that all police killings are being rigorously investigated and that the Jamaica Constabulary Force must cooperate fully," said Robin Guittard, Caribbean campaigner at Amnesty International.

Hamish Campbell, a former Scotland Yard commander who is the investigative agency's deputy commis-

sioner, said reducing fatal shootings has been helped by a significant drop in early morning raids. Heavily armed and often masked officers would roll into slums before dawn on raids that frequently ended in bloodshed, though police went unscathed.

"The tactic was not tenable and the greater majority of the public recognized it for what it really was," Campbell said.

Rights groups long accused the government of fostering a culture of impunity by protecting law enforcers accused of killing suspects rather than subjecting them to the backlogged, inefficient court system. Activists are now cautiously hopeful the tide might be starting to turn.

"The total figure is still far too high, although the current trend may result in one of the lowest annual numbers of police killings in Jamaica in decades," said Jamaica's most prominent rights group.

By comparison, Chicago police fatally shot 13 people last year, and the U.S. city has roughly the same population as Jamaica, 2.7 million.

The 11,000-member Jamaica Constabulary Force attributes the drop in police-caused fatalities to improved management and increased training on the use of force and respect for human rights.

Officials also cite the behavior of suspects. "We have been seeing an increased trend of criminals using less confrontational measures in dealing with the police as they have chosen the option of surrendering in light of several public appeals," said Assistant Police Superintendent Tanisha Ellison.



Shackelia Jackson-Thomas holds up a business card decorated with a photo her late brother Nakiea Jackson who was fatally shot by police outside of his small restaurant, in Kingston, Jamaica. Jackson-Thomas' brother is one of over 2,000 citizens killed by police in the last decade.

(AP Photo/David McFadden)

crime. Now, with overall violence ebbing, the Caribbean country is on track to have the fewest deaths at the hands of law enforcement in years, drawing cautious

police killings hasn't been below 200 since 2004.

"Police always used to come with guns cocked, but more of them are calmer now and have a better attitude," said Susan

officers of prosecution by an independent agency that investigates allegations against police.

The Independent Commission of Investigations was created in 2010 after se-

Violence mars weekend protests across Haiti

EVENS SANON
Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti

(AP) — Thousands of anti-government protesters marched Saturday through Haiti's capital for the second time in two days amid anger over delayed elections and other issues.

The crowd began marching peacefully toward the Canadian Embassy in Port-au-Prince, but protesters later began burning tires, throwing rocks at police

and trying to force their way through barricades as officers fired tear gas.

Many protesters carried posters demanding that President Michel Martelly and Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe step down.

"We need elections in the country so democracy can continue ... not corruption," said Jean Ronald Brison, owner of an auto parts store.

Martelly's administration was supposed to call elec-

tions in 2011 for a majority of Senate seats, the entire Chamber of Deputies and local offices. But both he and Lamothe have blamed legislators for blocking a vote that would lead to approval of an electoral law. Six senators have said the legislation is unconstitutional and favors the government.

A similar protest held Friday also turned violent, with police firing tear gas at protesters who burned tires

and threw rocks as they pushed through the security perimeter at the National Palace. No deaths or major injuries were reported. Lamothe addressed the protest late Friday via Twitter: "We urge demonstrators to exercise their constitutional right with restraint and responsibility."

Four anti-government demonstrations have been held in Haiti's capital in about a month and a fifth is planned for next week.



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ban and Caribbean dishes
to the realm of haute cui-
sine.
"Aruba has more than its
share of French/Italian/
fast food restaurants and
steakhouses," observes



Chef Urvin, "but I hon-
estly believe that island
visitors are looking for a
distinctive experience,
not something they
can have at home any
time. During their stay,
they wish to savor the
authentic flavors of the
region, and we have
sought out fresh, locally
grown ingredients and
interpreted traditional is-
land dishes in a manner
to surprise and please
the most finicky critic."



Urvin and his team are
all graduates of Aruba's
highly-respected EPI Cu-
linery Institute. He contin-
ued his studies at the ROC
Gildevaart College, Nieu-
wegein, then apprenticed
at the Brasserie Goeie Lui-
sa, advancing to become
their Chef de Partie. Urvin
further developed his culi-
nary skills during five years
at the famed Michelin 5*
rated Grand Restaurant
Karel V, perfectly his art be-
fore returning to Aruba to
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at pairing them to perfec-
tion. His enthusiasm for the
delicate art of enhancing
the flavors of both the wine
and food with an ideal
match is as infectious as his
ready smile and congenial
charm. He spent ten years
in the kitchens of the Roy-
al Caribbean cruise lines,
where as a novice to the
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covered their wine cellars.
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him first place among over
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wish it was Monday every day! Bugaloe is known for fun and craziness, so it was only logical Chef Marc Hernandez likes to go wild when it comes to his cooking. Caught in the morning, served at night is the true Bugaloe way, maybe this explains its popularity from the start. Crazy Fish Monday is served

from 5.30 p.m. till 10 p.m. Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill is open daily from 9 a.m. till midnight. Start your day of right with a delicious cappuccino, or walk in to enjoy a casual lunch in between sunbathing. A few nights a week Bugaloe is host to some of the best live bands of Aruba, while you are savoring dinner and enjoying



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p.m. Reservations are not necessary, just follow your hips to the music and the fun and smiles saluting you! ☐

First College Football Playoff:**Alabama, Oregon, Florida State and Ohio State Make the Cut**

Page 22

**Vikings topple Jets in OT with 87-yard touchdown**

Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Charles Johnson (12) is stripped of the ball by New York Jets free safety Jaiquawn Jarrett in Minneapolis Sunday, Dec. 7, 2014. (AP Photo/Jeff Wheeler)

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Jarius Wright's 87-yard touchdown reception from Teddy Bridgewater in overtime gave the Vikings the win. After forcing the Jets to punt to start the extra period, the Vikings faced third-and-5. Bridgewater was blitzed and threw high on a bubble screen to his right. Wright jumped, made an off-balance grab, slipped by Jaiquawn Jarrett and outran defensive tackle Sheldon Richardson the rest of the way. Former Vikings receiver Percy Harvin had a 35-yard touchdown reception and a 47-yard kickoff return while finishing with 124 yards on six catches. But he hurt his ankle on a hard hit by Josh Robinson late in the fourth quarter and didn't return. This was his first game in Minnesota in more than two years after playing his first 3 1/2 seasons with the Vikings (6-7), who beat the Jets for the first time in eight matchups since 1975.

Gerald Hodges returned an interception of Geno Smith for a touchdown on the first play from scrimmage, but the much-maligned second-year quarterback bounced back for the Jets (2-11) by going 18 for 29 for 254 yards and gaining 33 yards rushing on six attempts. Smith was just 7 of 13 for 49 yards against Miami in the last game. Richardson had a safety among his three sacks. But Bridgewater finished 19 for 27 for 309 yards and two touchdowns. Charles Johnson caught the first one for 56 yards and totaled 103 yards on four receptions. Nick Folk's fifth field goal tied the game at 24 with 23 seconds left in the fourth quarter.

Giants 36, Titans 7

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Eli Manning threw for 260 yards and a touchdown, and the Giants snapped a seven-game skid. The Giants (4-9) won for the first time since Oct. 5

with two rookies having big games. Odell Beckham Jr. set a team rookie record with his fourth game with 100 yards receiving this season: 11 catches for 130 yards and a TD. Andre Williams ran for a season-high 131 yards, including a 50-yard TD. Tennessee (2-11) lost its

seventh straight and for the 11th time in 12 games with a performance that had fans booing and even a handful wearing paper bags over their heads. This is the franchise's longest skid since losing 11 straight in 1994 as the then-Houston Oilers.

Steelers 42, Bengals 21
CINCINNATI (AP) — Ben Roethlisberger threw three touchdown passes, including a 94-yarder to rookie Martavis Bryant in the fourth quarter that was the longest play from scrimmage this season.

Continued on Page 20

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Kean's goal gives LA Galaxy MLS Cup

GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

CARSON, California (AP) — Robbie Keane scored a brilliant goal in the extra time as LA Galaxy beat the New England Revolution 2-1 to win the Major League Soccer Cup on Sunday. Gyasi Zardes scored in the

52nd minute as the Galaxy won their record fifth league title in the final game for Landon Donovan, the MLS scoring leader and most accomplished football player in U.S. history. Donovan, Keane and the Galaxy have won three of the last four league championships, cel-

ebrating all three on their home field. After Chris Tierney scored the equalizer in the 79th minute for New England, both teams had golden opportunities before Keane capped his Most Valuable Player season with the winner in the second period of extra time. □



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NFL players sporting 'I Can't Breathe' message



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Andrew Luck, left, talks with Cleveland Browns cornerback Johnson Bademosi before an NFL football game Sunday, Dec. 7, 2014, in Cleveland. More professional athletes were wearing "I Can't Breathe" messages Sunday in protest of a grand jury ruling not to indict an officer in the death of a New York man.

JOSEPH WHITE
AP Sports Writer
LANDOVER, Maryland
(AP) — A week after their "Hands Up, Don't Shoot!" show of solidarity, several St. Louis Rams players made another societal statement Sunday with the message: "I Can't Breathe."

The slogan refers to Eric Garner, who died after a New York police officer placed him in a chokehold during an arrest for selling

(AP Photo/Tony Dejak)

loose cigarettes. A grand jury decided last week that it would not indict the officer. A video of the arrest showed Garner gasping, "I can't breathe."

Guard Davin Joseph wrote the words on the cleats he wore during pregame warmups before the Rams beat the Washington Redskins 24-0. Tight end Jared Cook had it written on his wrist tape. Receiver Kenny Britt had several names —

including Michael Brown and Trayvon Martin — written on his blue and gold cleats. The names were of black men or teens whose deaths led to protests.

"I feel like we should support what we feel is right," said Joseph, who intended to wear the cleats during the game but had to change because of the condition of the slick turf at the Redskins' stadium.

"We should always have an opinion of sticking up for people who don't have a voice."

Joseph Tweeted an image of his shoes before the

game with the message: "R.I.P. Eric Garner."


Players at other NFL games expressed similar sentiments. Detroit Lions running back Reggie Bush had "I Can't Breathe" written in black across his blue warmup shirt. Browns cornerback Johnson Bademosi wrote the message on the back of the shirt he wore before a game in Cleveland.

"Honestly, I've always been the quiet kid. I've always been the one who's reserved, to kind of sit back and not really get into politics and things like that,"

said Bush, whose mother has been a police officer for about 20 years. "But I don't know why I just felt some kind of ... I guess the situation just touched me."

"It's kind of resonated with me. Not because I've been through a similar situation or because I've seen anybody go through it. I just really felt terrible about what was going on these past couple of weeks."

Lions coach Jim Caldwell supported Bush's action. "I grew up in the '60s, where everybody was socially conscious," Caldwell said. "I believe in it. □"



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NFL Roundup

Continued from Page 17

The win turned the AFC North into a wide-open race. In a game they had to win, the Steelers (8-5) caught up and ran away with 25 points in the fourth quarter. For Cincinnati (8-4-1), it was a second straight lopsided at home loss to a division rival. The Bengals fell to Cleveland 24-3 before going on the road and winning three straight to take control of the division. Now, it's anyone's title. Le'Veon Bell had another big all-around game, running for 185 yards, catching six passes for 50 yards, and scoring three touchdowns.

Ravens 28, Dolphins 13

MIAMI GARDENS, Florida (AP) — The Baltimore Ravens played more than 17 minutes before picking up a first down, then overcame a 10-point deficit to win.

The Ravens rallied with consecutive touchdown drives of 97 and 75 yards, and added the clinching score after a favorable replay reversal.

A gamble by coach John Harbaugh in the third quarter helped. The Ravens made a first down on fourth-and-1 in their territory, jump-starting the TD drive that put them ahead.



New York Giants wide receiver Rueben Randle (82) leaps past Tennessee Titans safety George Wilson (21) in the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Dec. 7, 2014, in Nashville, Tenn.

(AP Photo/Mark Zaleski)

The victory gave Baltimore (8-5) a significant edge over Miami (7-6) in the AFC's scramble for a wild-

card playoff berth. The Dolphins, who haven't been to the postseason since 2008, are now a long shot with three games to go.

Panthers 41, Saints 10

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Cam Newton passed for three touchdowns, appeared to incite a scuffle with frustrated New Orleans after he

Jonathan Stewart added a 69-yard touchdown as the Panthers (4-8-1) pulled closer to NFC South leader Atlanta (5-7), which plays at Green Bay on Monday night.

Newton's jawing and "Superman" celebration of his 2-yard rushing touchdown in the first quarter drew a shove from linebacker Curtis Lofton. That ignited a scrum that eventually went into a tunnel beyond the end zone.

Panthers tight end Brandon Williams was ejected for punching Cam Jordan, but Carolina kept rolling. Newton's scoring passes went to Kelvin Benjamin, Greg Olsen and Fozzy Whitaker.

New Orleans (5-8) lost its fourth straight home game to drop a half-game behind Atlanta.

Lions 34, Buccaneers 17

DETROIT (AP) — Matthew Stafford threw for 311 yards and three touchdowns — including one off a fluky deflection late in the

game.

The Lions (9-4) trail first-place Green Bay by a half-game in the NFC North, with the Packers hosting Atlanta on Monday night. Tampa Bay (2-11) was finally eliminated from playoff contention — the NFC South's mediocrity could only keep the Bucs in it for so long. They turned over the ball three times in the second quarter against Detroit and never led.

Calvin Johnson had eight catches for 158 yards and a touchdown for Detroit, which snapped a nine-game losing streak in December.

Rams 24, Redskins 0

LANDOVER, Maryland (AP) — The Rams have back-to-back shutouts for the first time since 1945, giving them their first winning streak of the season.

Jared Cook caught two touchdown passes, Tavon Austin returned a punt 78 yards for a score, and the defense allowed 206 total yards. □



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Spieth wins by record 10 shots at Isleworth

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

WINDERMERE, Fla. (AP) —

Jordan Spieth had been down this road before.

Three years ago at Isleworth, he was making the turn in the final round when he looked over at the scoreboard on the 18th fairway that showed he had a big lead. So it was eerie when he caught himself doing the same thing Sunday during the final round of the Hero World Challenge.

But there was one big difference.

Back then, Spieth was a freshman at Texas and won by eight shots in the Isleworth Collegiate Invitational for his first college title.

This time, he beat an elite field that included tournament host Tiger Woods, six major champions and 16 of the top 30 players in the world.

And he beat them even worse.

Spieth capped off a big finish to his second season as a pro when he closed with a 6-under 66 and set two tournament records to win by 10 shots over Henrik Stenson. Staked to a seven-shot lead in the final round, he opened with three birdies in four holes and turned the final three hours into a peaceful walk along the lakes and palatial homes of Isleworth.

"It was the most fun I ever had playing nine holes of golf," Spieth said.

Spieth had an 11-shot lead after nine holes, ripped a drive over the corner of the bunker and then glanced at the lone leaderboard. And then he made another birdie. He coasted from there and even with a careless double bogey on the back nine, he finished at 26-under 262 to break

the tournament record of 266 set by Woods in 2007 and Davis Love III in 2000, both at Sherwood Country

in golf, and broke the tournament record of seven shots that Woods had in 2007.

really very pleased with the year and how it came to a close," Spieth said. "This caps off the best

two wins, and that looked out of reach when he began the last leg of a long journey. He finished one shot out of a playoff in Japan, won the Australian Open by six shots and then turned in another dominant performance.

"The kid is playing great," said Keegan Bradley, who had a 70 to tie for third with Patrick Reed (68). "You have to look at his past three events. He almost won them all. He's a great player. I wouldn't look more into it other than he dominated this week." Woods, in his first tournament in four months while recovering from back injuries, stubbed two more chips on the 13th hole for a triple bogey and closed with a 72. He tied for last place in the 18-man field with Hunter Mahan, 26 shots out of the lead. □



Jordan Spieth holds the championship trophy after winning the Hero World Challenge golf tournament on Sunday, Dec. 7, 2014, in Windermere, Fla. (AP Photo/Willie J. Allen Jr.)

Club in California.

The 10-shot victory was the largest margin of the year

"Whether my emotions showed it or not I'm not sure, but inside we were

golfing year that I've ever had." Spieth had set a goal of

Woods tied for last, but in good health

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

WINDERMERE, Fla. (AP) — Tiger Woods tied for last place in his return to golf after four months and found at least one reason for optimism.

At least he has his health.

Except for flu-like symptoms on Saturday, Woods made it through 72 holes of the Hero World Challenge by swinging as hard as he wanted without feeling any pain. In his eyes, that far outweighed the shocking sight of so many duffed chips.

Woods muffed two more chips on the par-5 13th hole on his way to a triple bogey. He rallied with two late birdies for a 72 and shared last place in the 18-man field at Isleworth with Hunter Mahan at even-par 288.

He finished 26 shots behind Jordan Spieth.

"I hadn't played in four months," Woods said. "To come out here and not play in any kind of pain is great progress, and to be able to hit the ball as hard as I want really without flinching."

Woods had back surgery a week before the Masters to alleviate a pinched nerve. That kept him out of golf for about three months. After missing the cut in the PGA Championship on Aug. 9, he shut it down the last four months to strengthen his muscle structure.

"I made some progress," Woods said. "I hadn't played in four months and I'm in absolutely no pain, which is nice. To be able to go all out on some of these drives like I did

this week really enforces what I'm doing is the right thing for my body."

Different about this return to golf — his fifth in the last five years due to injury — is that Woods also is working with his third swing coach in the last five years. Chris Como walked every round, and Woods said he would consult with him during a week of practice before resting for the holidays.

He did not say when he would return. During an engaging spot in the broadcast booth, NBC Sports announcer Dan Hicks asked about his schedule and mentioned Hawaii.

"It won't be the Tournament of Champions," Woods said with a laugh.

Even though he tied for 17th, it was his best finish of the year. Woods tied for 25th at Doral in his final tournament before back surgery.

The biggest surprise was his short game. Woods said he fell into a mixture of his old swing and what he is trying to do now. He had eight chips that he flubbed, four of them on the 13th hole.

Steve Stricker played the final round with Woods and said he thought his swing looked better.

"He's going through it a little more freer," Stricker said. "Obviously, his short game — putting and chipping — is not up to snuff with what he was expecting out of himself, or anyone else for that matter. But he's taking a good rip at it. With any new swing, you're going to have challenges. It's going to take time." □

First College Football Playoff:

Alabama, Oregon, Florida State and Ohio State make the cut

MARC TRACY

© 2014 New York Times

The College Football Playoff selection committee revealed its first four-team bracket Sunday, seeding Alabama No. 1, Oregon No. 2, Florida State No. 3 and Ohio State No. 4. Two Big 12 teams, Baylor and Texas Christian, were left out as the fifth and sixth seeds.

Under the Football Bowl Subdivision's new playoff system, the top-seeded team is placed in the semifinal bowl where it has more of a home-field advantage. So Alabama will play Ohio State in the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans, and Oregon will face Florida State in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. Those games are Jan. 1.

The winners will play for the national title Jan. 12 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

The Buckeyes (12-1), who routed Wisconsin, 59-0, in the Big Ten championship game Saturday night, edged out the Big 12 co-champions, Baylor (11-1) and TCU (11-1), in the final seedings.

"With the championship game, Ohio State demonstrated that they were a total team," Arkansas Athletic Director Jeff Long, the committee chairman, said in an interview on ESPN.

TCU, ranked third by the committee last Tuesday, spent Saturday afternoon dispatching a weak Iowa State team, 55-3.

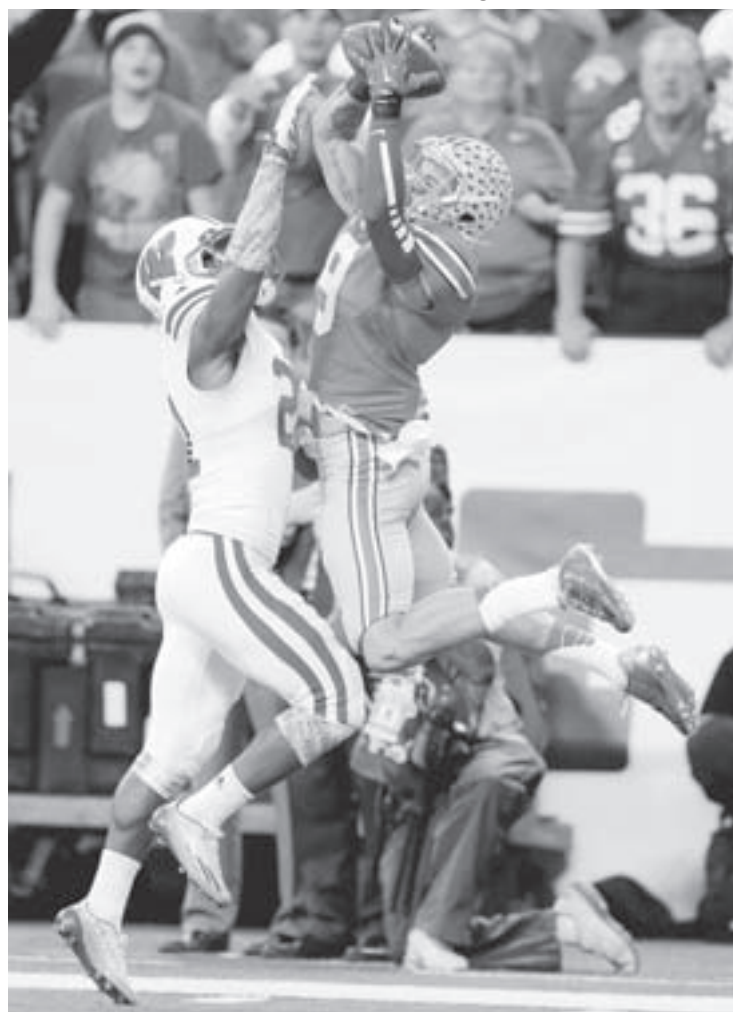
The Horned Frogs' sole loss came at Baylor on Oct. 11 after the Bears staged a 24-point fourth-quarter comeback. On Sunday, Baylor was ranked one

spot ahead of TCU.

Baylor did nearly all it could this season. In addition to beating TCU, the Bears defeated Oklahoma and Kansas State. Their only loss came at West Virginia. But that 41-27 defeat on Oct. 18 most likely did not

standards of some of the other major conferences.

The rankings had the immediate effect of raising questions about the Big 12, the only major conference that does not stage a championship game. The Big 12 declared Bay-



Ohio State wide receiver Devin Smith, right, catches a touchdown pass as Wisconsin cornerback Peniel Jean defends during the second half of the Big Ten Conference championship NCAA college football game Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014, in Indianapolis. (AP Photo/Michael Conroy)

hurt the Bears as much as their comparatively weak schedule did. Outside conference play, Baylor faced two lowly FBS teams and a Football Championship Subdivision squad.

The committee also presumably felt that the Big 12 was not quite up to the

lor and TCU co-champions even though Baylor won the teams' head-to-head matchup.

Asked whether a Big 12 title game would have made a difference in the rankings, Long said, "We don't deal in hypotheticals." But he seemed to suggest that

Ohio State's success in its conference's championship game had helped the Buckeyes qualify above Baylor and TCU.

"Ohio State's performance in a 13th game gave them a quality win against a highly ranked team," Long said.

TCU's drop from third to sixth despite a blowout win, he added, "was really about Ohio State and not about TCU."

Under an NCAA rule, a conference cannot hold a championship game unless it has at least 12 teams. The Big 12, despite its name, has just 10. It has considered petitioning the NCAA to change the rule. The Big 12 had another problem. The conference recently introduced the motto "One True Champion" to emphasize that its teams played all the other conference teams during the regular season.

"We're always going to apply a tiebreaker to determine who our champion is," commissioner Bob Bowlsby said before the season. He added, "We always are going to get to the point of a true champion."

Yet the Big 12 decided to consider TCU and Baylor co-champions rather than use tiebreakers - the first of which would have probably been head-to-head competition, making Baylor the champion.

"We were faced with co-champions," Long said. "That's what was given to us by the conference, and we weighed that."

On Saturday night, some saw the problem coming. "What country do we live

in? America?" Art Briles, Baylor's coach, said during a postgame interview on ESPN on Saturday. "If you and I race, and you beat me, you're faster than me. We play on a football field, we play a football game on the field, we win, then we're the better team."

Ohio State's only loss came to Virginia Tech in Week 2 as quarterback J.T. Barrett was adjusting to being the starter, having replaced Braxton Miller, who sustained a season-ending right shoulder injury in late August. The Buckeyes went on to dominate the Big Ten, with road wins over Michigan State and Minnesota and the blowout of Wisconsin on Saturday night in Indianapolis for the conference title.

Saturday's victory was led by the third-string quarterback Cardale Jones, after Barrett went down with a season-ending injury Nov. 29.

"I've been around teams that have competed and won national championships," Ohio State coach Urban Meyer, who won two Bowl Championship Series titles with Florida, said after Saturday's game. "This team, the way it's playing right now, is one of the top teams in America."

Later Sunday, the committee released the rest of its top 25, as well as the matchups in the other four playoff-affiliated bowls. Baylor will play No. 8 Michigan State in the Cotton Bowl in Arlington, a couple of hours north of Baylor's campus, on Jan. 1. TCU will travel to Atlanta to play No. 9 Mississippi in the Peach Bowl on Dec. 31. □

Big Ten to play its 2018 Men's Basketball Tournament in New York

MARC TRACY

© 2014 New York Times

NEW YORK - The Big Ten Conference will play its 2018 men's basketball tournament at Madison Square Garden, Commissioner Jim Delany said this weekend.

"We wanted to get out there as soon as we could," Delany said in a phone interview.

The Big Ten will make a

formal announcement Tuesday afternoon. Sports Illustrated first reported the move Saturday.

Delany also said that the Big Ten would stage a men's basketball/men's hockey doubleheader at the Garden starting in 2016. The first doubleheader will feature Michigan and Penn State.

Expanding to the East Coast has been a priority

for the Big Ten. This year, the traditionally Midwestern conference added Rutgers and Maryland. In 2017, the conference will hold its men's basketball tournament at Verizon Center in Washington, near Maryland's College Park campus.

The Big Ten is not the only major conference with its eye on the New York area. The Atlantic Coast Con-

ference will hold its men's basketball tournament at Barclays Center in 2017 and 2018.

The 2018 Big Ten tournament will run from Feb. 20 to March 4, before most major conferences hold their tournaments and a week before the NCAA tournament field is selected. "It's an extra week to prepare or rest up," Delany said. "Some may play a

nonconference game, but most may just rest."

Fran McCaffery, Iowa's fifth-year head coach, said he was pleased the tournament will be played at the Garden.

"It is what they say it is," he said. "It's the world's most famous arena."

The tournament will be held in Chicago this season and in Indianapolis in 2016. □

Tech Talk:

Some things to consider before buying that drone

KATE MURPHY

© 2014 New York Times

It seems as if drones are on everyone's wish list this holiday season. Type in "I want to buy a ..." and Google's autofill feature offers "drone" as the third most likely choice. So with hundreds of thousands of drones expected to take flight in the coming months, what's to keep them from colliding with airplanes, crashing into buildings or bonking bystanders on the head?

That's what the Federal Aviation Administration is trying to figure out. The agency that manages the busiest and most complicated airspace in the world, with more than 68,000 manned flights per day, is dealing with the regulatory nightmare of integrating a swarm of unmanned aircraft that can be as small as a sparrow or as large as the pterodactyls in "Jurassic Park."

"It's kind of like the early days of the automobile, with people speeding and not knowing what they were doing," said Arthur Holland Michel, co-director of the Center for the Study of the Drone at Bard College. "Everyone is holding their breath that there won't be a horrendous incident like a drone getting sucked into the engine of a passenger jet."

Reports of drones flying dangerously close to passenger aircraft are becoming a daily occurrence, according to the National Air Traffic Controllers Association. The incursions have been mostly at low altitudes as planes were on final approach to landing, but some have occurred at cruising altitudes as high as 10,000 feet.

Drones - usually the camera-equipped, multiple rotor variety - have also been spotted peeping into the windows of high-rise condos, interfering with medevac helicopters and buzzing fans attending football games. Perhaps the most alarming incident came last month when several mysterious drones flew

over French nuclear facilities, raising fears of possible terrorist plots and explosive payloads.

Because of the good safety record of model airplanes, Congress exempted drone hobbyists from

by 2015. But meeting that deadline appears unlikely as the agency struggles to keep pace with the technology and its widespread rogue use.

The FAA administrator, Michael Huerta, said his

any firm regulation is in place.

Although he wouldn't comment on particulars, Huerta said he envisioned that government and commercial drone operators would ultimately be

"Small operators are going to get pretty bent out of shape and ask, 'What do you mean, I have to get a license to fly a toy?'" said Michael Leasure, an associate professor of aeronautical technology at Purdue University who teaches courses in drone operation, design and repair. "But you need to know what you are doing or you're going to be a hazard."

It seems odd then that Congress specifically exempted the countless individuals who fly drones recreationally over their backyard barbecues and kids' soccer games. But perhaps back in 2012, Congress didn't anticipate that drones would become so pervasive that they would surpass the immersion blender as Martha Stewart's favorite appliance.

Many, if not most, recreational drone operators are unaware that there are FAA guidelines for the safe use of model aircraft. These include not flying above 400 feet, near crowds, beyond the line of sight or within 5 miles of an airport. Those voluntary limitations, issued in 1981, have been largely followed by traditional model airplane-makers, who put considerable effort into building their airships and developing aeronautical skills. □



A quad-copter built for a drone competition in Boulder, Colo. The Federal Aviation Administration is struggling to keep up with the pace of advances in drone technology, with reports of drones flying dangerously close to passenger aircraft now a daily occurrence.
(Kevin Moloney/The New York Times)

regulation when it passed the FAA Modernization and Reform Act in 2012. It calls for "safe integration" of only public and commercial drones (those used for law enforcement, filmmaking, pipeline inspection, real estate surveys, pesticide application, etc.)

agency would take a phased-in approach and predicted proposed rules for the smallest class of commercial drones (less than 55 pounds) by the end of this year. But those proposals will be likely to undergo a drawn-out comment period before

required to "operate under the same set of rules as general aviation pilots." That means licensure and recurrent training and testing. It also suggests that drone pilots will have to file flight plans and have their aircraft certified and regularly inspected.

Thousands of Einstein artifacts now a click away

DENNIS OVERBYE

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They have been called the Dead Sea Scrolls of physics. Since 1986, the Princeton University Press and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, to whom Albert Einstein bequeathed his copyright, have been engaged in a mammoth effort to study some 80,000 documents he left behind. As of last Friday, when Digital Einstein was introduced, anyone with an Internet connection is now able to share in the letters, papers, postcards, notebooks and diaries that Einstein left scattered in Princeton

and in other archives, attics and shoeboxes around the world when he died in 1955. The Einstein Papers Project, currently edited by Diana Kormos-Buchwald, a professor of physics and the history of science at the California Institute of Technology, has already published 13 volumes in print out of a projected 30. The published volumes contain about 5,000 documents that bring Einstein's story up to 1923, when he turned 44, in ever-thicker, black-jacketed, hard-bound books, dense with essays, footnotes and annotations detailing the

political, personal and cultural life of the day. A separate set of white paperback volumes contains English translations. Digitized versions of many of Einstein's papers and letters have been available on the Einstein Archives of the Hebrew University. Visitors to the new Digital Einstein website, Kormos-Buchwald said in an email, will be able to toggle between the English and German versions of the texts. They can dance among Einstein's love letters, his divorce file, his high school transcript, the notebook in which he worked out his

general theory of relativity and letters to his lifelong best friend, Michele Besso, among many other possibilities. Einstein, who like many other 20-year-old college students did not lack for a sense of self-dramatization, once wrote to his sister, Maja, "If everybody lived a life like mine, there would be no need for novels." As it would turn out, he did not know the half of it. The 14th volume, with more than 1,000 documents, is due in January. The digital versions are available at einstein-papers.press.princeton.edu. □

Golden Years: Of the Right Age, but Can't Seem to Stay Retired

ELIZABETH OLSON

© 2014 New York Times

Suzy Boerboom, a registered nurse, retired - for the first time - after a 35-year career in health care and ownership of several Curves exercise franchises. She then devoted five years helping her three daughters raise their children.

"I was very close to both my grandmothers," Boerboom said, "and I wanted the same relationship with my grandchildren." But af-

retirement includes work in some capacity," says Ken Dychtwald, founder and chief executive of Age Wave, a group that researches the aging population.

Many retirement dropouts are highfliers who land right back in the executive mix. Of course, many over 55 work to pay the bills, but others just want to keep busy, so they help a family member's business.

These workers are swelling the ranks of the workforce

left work unless they had to because of illness or physical disability.

By the 1970s, the percentage of the upper-age labor force fell even further, to the 30 percent range. But it began climbing back up again in the late 2000s, spurred by the economic collapse in 2008. This year, the 55-and-older segment returned to 1960s levels of around 40 percent, as many people work to rebuild their retirement savings or supplement their

ment, more than half of those who plan to work after age 55 are taking "substantial steps" to prepare for their next work experience, which could include updating their skills or looking to expand a hobby, and about 54 percent felt financially prepared for retirement. Further exploring motivation, an AARP survey, conducted in January, found that about a third of retirement-age people said they worked because they enjoyed it. That is equal to the percentage of those who said they had to work for financial reasons, according to the study called "Staying Ahead of the Curve: The AARP Work and Career Study." The AARP research found that 55 percent of retirees are employed voluntarily, including the 25 percent who reported working because they wanted to be physically or mentally active. The study queried 1,502 people 45 through 74. Such "driven achievers" include Ronald E. Stewart, chief executive of PRGX Global, a business analytics and information services provider, who segued from a 30-year career at what is now Accenture, beginning in the 1980s. He prepared for a postretirement life without a workplace, but also kept looking for business opportunities. "I was the oldest guy in the Atlanta office," he said of his 2007 retirement at 53, and "I was tired of being constantly on the road for work." After winding down for a brief period, he decided to keep his hand in the working world by starting a private equity investment firm with former colleagues.

"It was a little bit of a toe in the water," he said of the venture. But then an unexpected opportunity enticed him to pursue a completely new business. In 2008, he opened a hamburger restaurant with a young man he had mentored for years while volunteering for Atlanta's "Big Brothers, Big Sisters" program. □



Suzy Boerboom, chief executive of Welcyon, Fitness After 50, at one of her gyms in Edina, Minn. The number of people in the work force who are past retirement age is growing: Some are highfliers who land right back in the executive mix, many work to pay the bills, but others just want to keep busy. "I just didn't feel relevant," Boerboom said. "I was beginning to feel a little bored, and a bit out of the mainstream."

(Jenn Ackerman/The New York Times)

ter several years, she felt too restless to retire, she said. "I just didn't feel relevant," Boerboom, now 66, said. "I was beginning to feel a little bored and a bit out of the mainstream." So in 2009, she started Welcyon, Fitness After 50, a health club business that aims to help older people become fit and stay that way. Boerboom, working with her husband, Tom, from their Edina, Minnesota, headquarters, is now busy franchising the centers.

Boerboom said she "failed" at retirement, joining a group of people who sometimes are labeled workaholics or, more kindly, "driven achievers," who work simply because they love it. For many, the "ideal

ages 55 years and older. There are more people in the retirement-age workforce than at any time since the 1960s, the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics has found. About 33 million seniors are employed, up 49 percent from the 23 million such workers a decade ago, according to the government data.

This is a reversal from the 1950s when, benefiting from Social Security and company pensions, people began retiring at earlier ages than ever before. In 1960, according to federal statistics, only about 40 percent of workers over 55 were in the labor force compared with nearly twice as many, or 80 percent, in 1900, an era when relatively few people ever

Social Security payments. But financial need and the desire for new challenge are not the only factors driving how workers approach retirement. People are looking at decades, instead of years, of retirement, and they are rethinking traditional pastimes like travel, golf and bridge.

As a result, a preponderance of the people in their 50s want to work in some capacity. Dychtwald said that three-fourths of those older than 50 queried in a recent study by Age Wave and Merrill Lynch Global Wealth Management, said they wanted to work. The "Work in Retirement: Myths and Motivations" study, which was conducted last March, found that about two years before retire-

Second bitcoin auction draws fewer bidders

SYDNEY EMBER

© 2014 New York Times

Investors' enthusiasm for bitcoin may be waning.

The U.S. Marshals Service said that 11 registered bidders had taken part in the most recent auction and that the agency had received 27 bids, far fewer than the 45 bidders and 63 bids the agency received in the first bitcoin auction in June.

The auction last week was for 50,000 bitcoins, worth around \$19 million, seized in connection with the now-defunct online marketplace Silk Road. The site was shut down in October 2013 after the authorities said it was a marketplace for illegal drugs and other illicit activities. In the auction five months ago, the Marshals Service sold nearly 30,000 bitcoins. Some of the same prominent investors who participated in the Marshals Service's first auction again submitted bids this time. SecondMarket and Pantera Bitcoin both allowed customers to bid through syndicates.

Some bidders in the first auction chose to sit out last week. The Bitcoin Shop did not participate in the auction. Nor did Rangeley Capital. Alex Waters, the chief executive and co-founder of Coin Apex, who appeared to send his bid live on Bloomberg Television during the first auction, also did not bid this time. Coinbase, a bitcoin payment processor, declined to comment.

The results of the Marshals Service's first auction may have dissuaded bidders from participating in the second auction, said Gil Luria, an analyst with Wedbush Securities.

"The big difference is that people already saw how last time went," Luria said.

Although the Marshals Service did not announce the price of Draper's winning bid, it is widely assumed among bitcoin investors that he bid above bitcoin's market price at the time. As a result, some investors who had hoped to get a bargain last time saw little point in participating in this auction. □

Class Prejudice Resurgent



DAVID BROOKS
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One of the features of all the Ferguson discussion over the past few months is how tinny the comparisons to the civil-rights era have sounded. People have tried to link Ferguson to Selma and Jim Crow, but something is off. That's, in part, because we've moved from simplicity to ambiguity. The civil rights struggle was about as clear a conflict between right and wrong as we get in national life. The debate about Ferguson elicited complex reactions among most sensible people.

This complexity was best expressed in the short essay that Benjamin Watson, a New Orleans Saints tight end, posted on Facebook, which went viral. Watson listed 12 different emotions the Ferguson mess aroused, including:

"I'm ANGRY because stories of injustice that have been passed down for generations seem to be continuing before our very eyes. ... I'm OFFENDED because of the insulting comments I've seen. ... I'm INTROSPECTIVE because sometimes I want to take 'our' side without looking at the facts in situations like these."

But the other reason that the civil-rights era comparisons were inapt is because the nature of racism has changed. There has been a migration away from prejudice based on genetics to prejudice based on class.

Let me explain with a historical detour. In 18th- and 19th-century Britain, there was a division between "respectable" society and those who lived in slums that were sometimes known as rookeries (because the neighborhoods reminded people of rock faces where thieving crows lived in little nooks and crannies).

The people who lived in these slums were often described as more like animals than human beings. For example, in an 1889 essay in *The Palace Journal*, Arthur Morrison described, "Dark, silent, uneasy shadows passing and crossing - human vermin in this reeking sink, like goblin exhalations from all that is noxious around. Women with sunken, black-rimmed eyes, whose pallid faces appear and vanish by the light of an occasional gas lamp, and look so like ill-covered skulls that we start at their stare."

"Proper" people of that era had both a disgust and fascination for those who lived in these untouchable realms. They went slumming into the poor neighborhoods, a

sort of poverty tourism that is the equivalent of today's reality TV or the brawlers that appear on "The Jerry Springer Show."

Today we once again have a sharp social divide between people who live in the "respectable" meritocracy and those who live beyond it. In one world almost everybody you meet has at least been to college, and people have very little contact with features that are sometimes a part of the other world: prison, meth, payday loans, a flowering of nonmarriage family types. In one world, people assume they can control their destinies. In the other, some people embrace the now common motto: "It don't make no difference."

Widening class distances produce class prejudice, classism. This is a prejudice based on visceral attitudes about competence. People in the "respectable" class have meritocratic virtues: executive function, grit, a capacity for delayed gratification. The view about those in the untouchable world is that they are short on these things. They are disorganized. They are violent and scary.

This belief has some grains of truth because of childhood trauma, the stress of poverty and other things. But this view metastasizes into a vicious, intellectually lazy stereotype. Before long, animalistic imagery is used to describe these human beings.

This class prejudice is applied to both the white and black poor, whose demographic traits are converging. But classism combines with latent and historic racism to create a particularly malicious brew. People are now assigned a whole range of supposedly underclass traits based on a single glimpse at skin color. During the civil-rights era there was always a debate about what was a civil-rights issue and what was an economic or social issue. Now that distinction has been obliterated. Every civil-rights issue is also an economic and social issue. Classism intertwines with racism. It's often said after events like Ferguson that we need a national conversation on race. That's a bit true. We all need to improve our capacity for sympathetic understanding, our capacity to imaginatively place ourselves in the minds of other people with experiences different from our own. Conversation can help, though I suspect novels, works of art and books like Claude Brown's "Manchild in the Promised Land" work better.

But, ultimately, we don't need a common conversation; we need a common project. If the nation works together to improve social mobility for the poor of all races, through projects like President Barack Obama's My Brother's Keeper initiative, then social distance will decline, classism will decline and racial prejudice will obliquely decline as well.

In a friendship, people don't sit around talking about their friendship. They do things together. Through common endeavor people overcome difference to become friends. □



The Gift That Keeps Giving



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
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Flying into New York the other day, I got my first good look at the Freedom Tower, now known as 1 World Trade Center, the skyscraper that sits atop 9/11's ground zero. It does, indeed, scrape the sky, topping out at a patriotic 1,776 feet. Thirteen years after 9/11, I appreciate the nationalist pride that, while terrorists can knock down our buildings, we can just build them right back up. Take that, Osama bin Laden. If only the story ended there. Alas, bin Laden really did mess us up, and continues to do so. We've erased the ruins of the World Trade Center, but the foreign policy of fear that 9/11 instilled is still very much inside us - too much so. It remains the subtext of so much that we do in the world today, which is why it's the subtitle of a new book by David Rothkopf, "National Insecurity: American Leadership in an Age of Fear."

Much of the book is an inside look at how foreign policy was made under the two presidents since 9/11. But, in many ways, the real star of the book, the ubershaper of everything, is this "age of fear" that has so warped our institutions and policy priorities. Will it ever go away or will bin Laden be forever that gift that keeps on giving? This is the question I emailed to Rothkopf, the editor of *Foreign Policy* magazine.

"The post-9/11 era will not be seen as a golden age in U.S. foreign policy," he responded. "Largely, this is because 9/11 was such an emotional blow to the U.S. that it, in an instant, changed

our worldview, creating a heightened sense of vulnerability." In response, "not only did we overstate the threat, we reordered our thinking to make it the central organizing principle in shaping our foreign policy."

This was a mistake on many levels, Rothkopf insisted: "Not only did it produce the overreaction and excesses of the Bush years, but it also produced the swing in the opposite direction of Obama - who was both seeking to be the un-Bush and yet was afraid of appearing weak on this front himself" - hence doubling down in Afghanistan and re-intervening in Iraq, in part out of fear that if he didn't, and we got hit with a terrorist attack, he'd be blamed. Fear of being blamed by the fearful has become a potent force in our politics. We've now spent over a decade, Rothkopf added, "reacting to fear, to a very narrow threat, letting it redefine us, and failing to rise as we should to the bigger challenges we face - whether those involved rebuilding at home, the reordering of world power, changing economic models that no longer create jobs and wealth the way they used to" or forging "new international institutions because the old ones are antiquated and dysfunctional."

To put it another way, he said - and I agree with this - the focus on terrorism, combined with our gotcha politics, has "killed creative thinking" in Washington, let alone anything "aspirational" in our foreign policy. Look at the time and money Republicans forced us to spend debating whether the Benghazi, Libya, consulate attack was a terrorist plot or a spontaneous event - while focusing not a whit on the real issue: what a bipartisan failure our whole removal of Libya's dictator turned out to be, what we should learn from that and how, maybe, to fix it.

I have sympathy for President Barack Obama having to deal with this mess of a world, where the key threats come from crum-

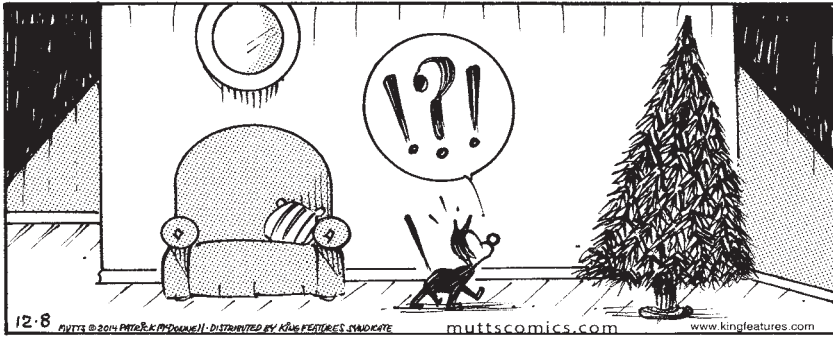
bling states that can be managed only by rebuilding them at a huge cost, with uncertain outcomes and dodgy partners. Americans don't want that job. Yet these disorderly states create openings for low-probability, high-impact terrorism, where the one-in-a-million lucky shot can really hurt us. No president wants to be on duty when that happens either. Yet many more Americans were killed in their cars by deer last year than by terrorists. I don't think Obama has done that badly navigating all these contradictions. He has done a terrible job explaining what he is doing and connecting his restraint with any larger policy goals at home or abroad.

Argues Gautam Mukunda, a professor at the Harvard Business School and author of "Indispensable: When Leaders Really Matter," our overreliance on fencing, so to speak, since 9/11 has distracted us from building resilience the way we used to, by investing in education, infrastructure, immigration, government-funded research and rules that incentivize risk-taking but prevent recklessness.

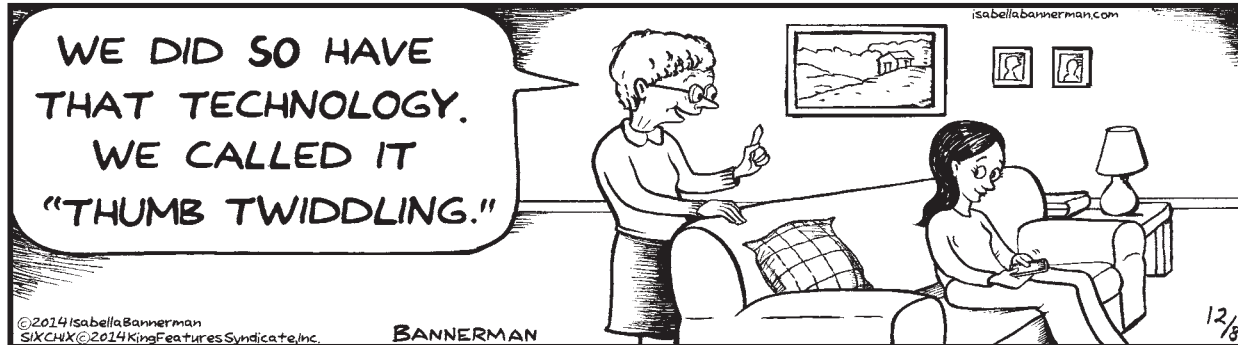
"We used to invest in those things more than anyone," said Mukunda, "because they offered high-probability, high-impact returns." Now we don't, and we are less resilient as a result - no matter how many walls we put up. We're also not investing enough in the low-probability, high-pay-off innovations - like the Internet or GPS - that have distinguished us as a nation and add to our resilience. "We live in a world where small bets can have huge returns," said Mukunda.

When you look at the effort our leaders now expend preventing low-probability, high-impact terrorist attacks - or protecting themselves from charges of not having done so - compared with rethinking and investing in the proven sources of our strength in this era of rapid change, said Mukunda, "it's way out of balance." □

Mutts



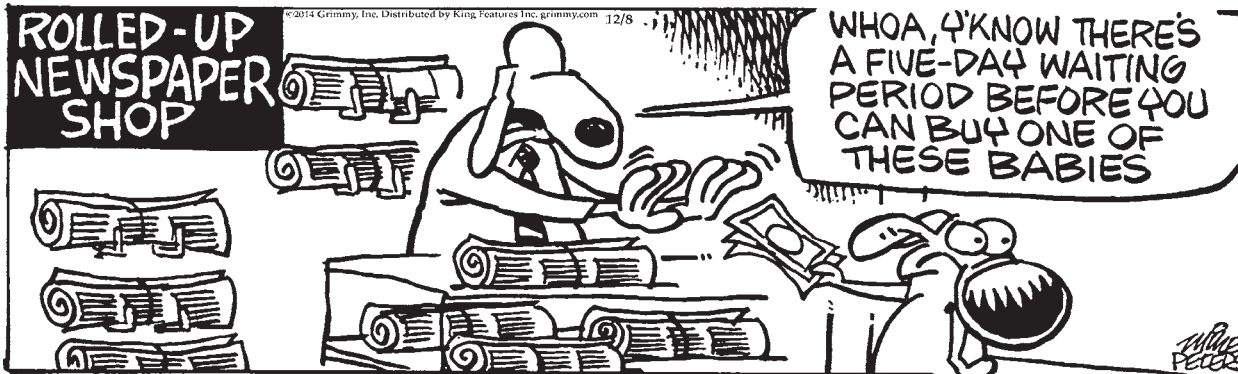
6 Chix



Blondie



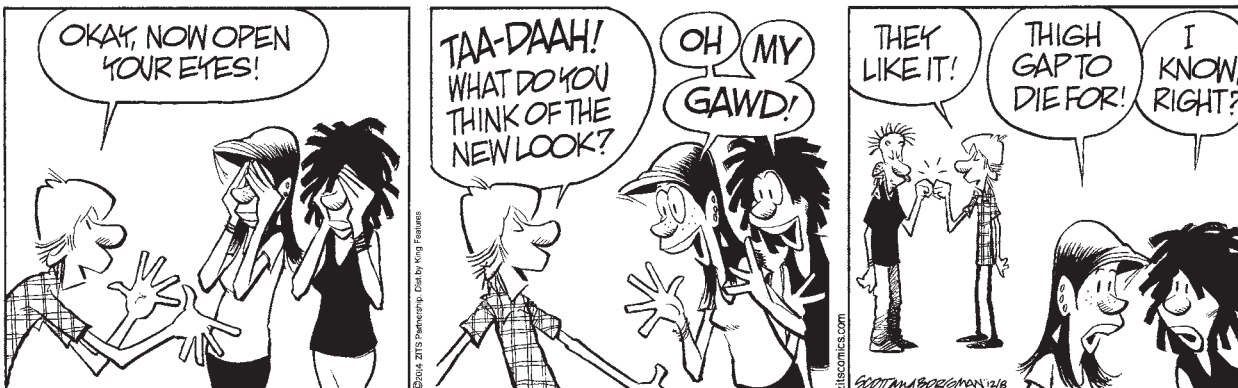
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	2		1			5	
9	4			2		6	8
		3		7		1	
8			5		7		
	1			4		8	
		7			3		2
	3		4		5		
2	8		5			3	1
	6			1		9	

Difficulty Level ★

12/08

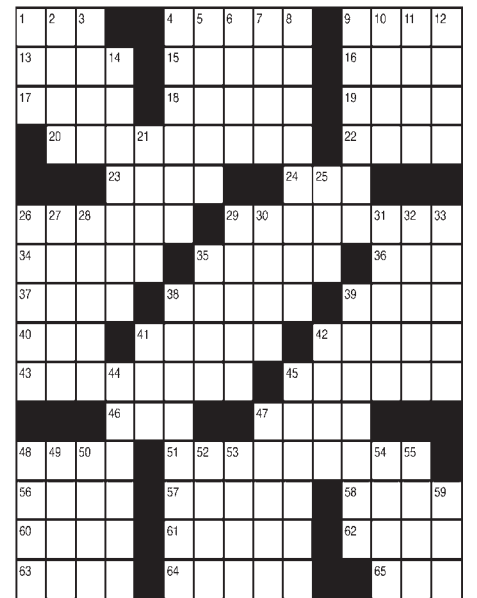
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

9	8	7	5	4	1	2	3	6
1	3	6	8	7	2	9	4	5
4	2	5	6	9	3	1	7	8
5	4	9	7	3	8	6	1	2
2	7	1	9	5	6	4	8	3
8	6	3	2	1	4	5	9	7
7	9	8	4	2	5	3	6	1
6	1	2	3	8	9	7	5	4
3	5	4	1	6	7	8	2	9

ACROSS

- Taxi
- Chiropractors' targets, usually
- "boy!"; new parents' cry
- Is in the red
- Without companions
- and void; not valid
- Feeble
- Friendlier
- Metal clothing fastener
- One who commandeers a plane in flight
- Scottish caps
- "The Star State"; Texas
- Orang or chimp
- Canada's capital
- Hurling weapon of old
- Spin around
- Book leaves
- Cutting tool
- Chain piece
- Sat for an artist
- City fellow on a ranch
- Humpty Dumpty, e.g.
- Monetary penalties
- TV's Milton
- Seminary class
- Like a camel's back
- Rather plain hairstyle
- Rib or clavicle
- Mediocre
- Kooky
- Bangkok native
- Fill with joy
- Cast-__ skillet
- Lubricates
- River floats
- Wisk rival
- Keats or Kilmer
- Sugarcoated
- Make clothes



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/8/14

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

CUBA	APART	SIBS
APES	RODEO	HOOP
POTS	EDDIE	ITSA
ENSIGNS	GYMNAST	
SEA	KNEAD	
ELATE	HIS	KILLS
MESS	MAN	REGALE
BOW	MEDDLES	BAN
ENAMEL	ROD	MEMO
RENAL	REP	MOLAR
SEWED	COB	
POSTERS	BROS	NAN
ONCE	ICILY	TILE
STAR	SUNUP	ELMS
TONY	TENET	REST

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12/8/14

DOWN

- Calf's mother

- Covered wagon passengers

- Shameful mark for a student
- Respiratory bug, for short
- Tap a baseball player
- Woodwind
- Truthful
- Singer Midler
- Go no further
- Canton's state
- Store event
- Talon
- Lunch spot
- Fleur-de-lis
- Word with ZIP or Morse
- Just purchased

Madshus Cross-Country Skis Evolve With the Times



In an undated handout photo, Madshus eMpower XC smart skis. At the factory, a radio-frequency identification chip with near-field communication, or NFC, capability is inserted in the skis. Then, when the skis are delivered to retail outlets, sales personnel and customers can build a profile using an Acer tablet and custom software.

(Ian Coble via The New York Times)

JACK BELL

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For years, many people thought of the cross-country skier as either a solitary tree hugger out in the woods, icicles hanging from a frozen beard, or perhaps as a perfect human specimen struggling across the finish line of a long race in Finland and promptly vomiting onto the snow.

While those images may endure, the sport has experienced a renaissance of sorts among millions of health-conscious Americans eager to burn 300 to 700 calories an hour when the winter chill and snow on the ground keep them from their regular outdoor exercise, like jogging or biking.

According to Snowsports Industries America, a trade group, more than 3 million Americans took to the trails in 2013-14. Like Alpine skiing, cross-country skiing appeals to an affluent and educated clientele: 49 percent of cross-country skiers have household incomes of more than \$75,000 and 59 percent have a bachelor's degree or higher. Even as the sport has become popular and more mainstream, the prosaic ski has been slower to evolve. The choices are still between waxable and waxless skis. But the digital age is coming, particularly with the Madshus eMpower XC series of smart skis.

"We wanted to create a finished product that is perfect," said Chris McCullough, the global brand manager for K2 Outdoor, the parent company of Madshus skis.

He added, "A tag goes into the ski and gives it a unique signature, one microchip per ski."

Madshus was founded in 1906 by Martin Madshus in a barn in Vardal, Norway. It has been based in the village of Biri since 1972 and, with Asnes, is one of the two remaining ski manufacturers in Norway, home to thousands of cross-country skiers.

What's smart about these skis? First, the guesswork about which ski to buy is

mostly eliminated by the microchip embedded in each ski.

The proper fitting for cross-country skis is not rocket science, but the infusion of digital technology promises to make it more precise. An optimum experience for the skier depends on skis with the correct flexibility, length and stiffness.

At the factory, a radio-frequency identification chip

with near-field communication, or NFC, capability is inserted in the skis. Then, when the skis are delivered to retail outlets, sales personnel and customers can build a profile using an Acer tablet and custom software.

The software calls for entering the skier's height (in centimeters) and weight (in kilograms), and level of ability, ski style (classical or skate) and experience. Customers are immediately pointed to a selection of skis in store inventory that fit the profile.

"I'm not really clear on how it all works, but it expands on a tool for the salesperson, the wax zones, the profile," said Ted Clarke, an avid biker and skier who was checking out new skis at the Skirack in Burlington, Vermont, recently and speaking through a Skype video hookup.

"It does help me decide which skis to buy," he continued. "It's all on the screen. It's nice to know my options rather than guesswork. I like being able to see the data." □

DOCTOR ON DUTY Oranjestad



Dr. Algera

EMERGENCIA 911



POLIS	100
POLIS	581-1100
ORANJESTAD	582-4000
NOORD	587-0009
STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	584-5050

PHARMACY

Oranjestad: Oduber Tel: 582-1780
San Nicolas: Centro Medico Tel: 584-5794

INFORMATION	118
SETAR	582-2116
TAXI	582-5900
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

CRUISESHIP



December 8
Monarch
AIDAluna

Aruba Airport	524-2424
American Airline	582-2700
Avianca	588-0059
Dutch Antilles	588-1900
Insel Air	588-9314
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Foundation

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Bloodbank Aruba

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Classifieds

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Week	room	price
48/49	551	\$5500
30	515	\$4600
42	103	\$6000
15	327	\$6500
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19	547	\$5000

LA CABANA

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PARADISE BEACH VILLAS

Week 29 room 129, 2 bedroom

\$5.500

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24/7

Their Own Private Green Incubator in Vermont

SANDY KEENAN

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WARREN, Vt. - Dotty Kyle and Eric Brattstrom had an ambitious vision for the home they would build when they sold their bed-and-breakfast here seven years ago and retired. They were environmental and community advocates, so they wanted it to be as sustainable as possible - ideally net-zero, producing as much energy

hydraulic elevator, so they could age in place. And a separate apartment for the inevitable time when extra help was needed. The indoor pool was just for fun. "We sold a nine-bedroom B&B and then pretty much re-created it right up the street," said Kyle, who is now 78, shaking her head with the kind of clarity only hindsight affords. "I was an idiot and built a

ity for electricity, because they generate more than they consume, sending the overage back into the grid. And because Brattstrom did most of the labor himself, using trees cleared from the property, the cost of the whole compound was \$100 a square foot, or somewhere between \$500,000 and \$600,000 for the house, garage and outbuildings like the chick-

mental engineering since the 1970s, he said, when he slapped some crude homemade panels on his roof in an effort to get more hot water. "That first system was copper and plywood and glass," he said. But he really got going after reading Al Gore's 1992 book, "The Earth in Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit." Now he and Kyle anchor

ceiling constructs and tight walls (some of the exterior ones are more than a foot thick). Gaelen Brown, who teaches at Yestermorrow and advised the couple on their composting system, said he is "uber impressed" by their experimentation. "Dotty and Eric are creative and open-minded," he said. "Not your typical homeowners."

But all that creativity can be difficult to manage. For months now, Kyle has been gathering photos and graphics, and working off her husband's scrawled notes, in an effort to produce a manual that explains which levers do what and what combination of heating systems should be deployed in various seasons and weather conditions (those systems include the solar array, a mile of radiant heating divided into 15 zones, a wood-pellet boiler and a super-efficient fireplace that distributes its heat through ductwork to various parts of the house). It's not the kind of place you can up and leave for, say, a week's vacation in Florida. And it is hard to imagine who would take this on if it ever hit the real estate market. Perhaps someone who wouldn't mind raising and lowering the 56 insulating interior shades, a task that must be done every day.

When Brattstrom is away, it's hard for Kyle to run the place by herself, especially when she has to lift the heavy bags of wood pellets into the boiler or climb onto the steep, slippery widow's walk over the barn to sweep snow and ice off the solar panels so they can function effectively. "I'm starting to have a bit of vertigo," she said of that particular task. □



The 5,000-square-foot home of Dotty Kyle and Eric Brattstrom, environmental and community advocates in Warren, Vt. Railed rooftop walkways provide access to 71 photovoltaic panels, which have provided enough energy that they've never written a check for electricity in seven years since building the home. (Tony Cenicola/The New York Times)

as it used. And because they would be living on a modest fixed income, they needed to make sure it was inexpensive to maintain. But they didn't want to scrimp on luxury or size, so against their architect's advice they insisted on 5,000 square feet, enough space to accommodate all their children and grandchildren at the same time. And a \$30,000

house that was way too complicated and labor-intensive," said Brattstrom, also 78. "Only a masochist could enjoy it." The good news? The house is very inexpensive to operate. With 71 photovoltaic and eight solar hot-water collectors, there is plenty of free power. In fact, in the seven years they've lived here, they've never written a check to the public util-

en coop, which is heated in the winter organically, using compost. That's just one example of the couple's willingness to try almost any newfangled sustainable strategy in what has become their own private incubator for green building science. Brattstrom, a geologist by training and a commercial construction manager for most of his working life, has been interested in environ-

their small town's energy committee, one of about 170 in Vermont charged with figuring out how the state can meet its goal of having a 90 percent renewable energy supply by 2050. And Yestermorrow, the well-known design-build school based in Waitsfield, often sends its students over to study Brattstrom's green construction techniques: his super-insulating wizardry, fancy

'Hunger Games' dominates slow box office weekend

LINDSEY BAHR

AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1" continues to dominate the domestic box office, but awards season hopefuls "Wild" and "The Imitation Game" proved their might with impressive limited release showings on this sleepy post-Thanksgiving weekend.

In its third weekend in release, "Mockingjay - Part 1" earned an estimated \$21.6 million. Lionsgate's penultimate chapter in the massively successful franchise has now earned \$257.7 million domestically, according to studio estimates Sunday.

And yet, even though "Mockingjay - Part 1" is on track to become the second-highest grossing movie of the year by mid-week, it's still about \$78 million shy of where the previous installment, "Catching Fire,"



Jennifer Lawrence portrays Katniss Everdeen, right, and Liam Hemsworth portrays Gale Hawthorne in a scene from "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1."

(AP Photo/Lionsgate, Murray Close)

was in its third weekend just last year.

For Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box office tracker Rentrak, this deficit is only con-

cerning for the overall box office, which is down 4.6 percent for the year. "We are nearing the finish line for 2014 and that is a lot of ground to make up, but

luckily we have some big movies on the way," he says of "Into the Woods," "Exodus: Gods and Kings," "Annie," "Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb"

and "Unbroken."

While audiences wait for that fresh fare, some still turned out to catch up with the leftovers. DreamWorks Animation's "Penguins of Madagascar" took second place with \$11.1 million in its second weekend, while the raunchy Warner Bros. comedy "Horrible Bosses 2" claimed third place with \$8.6 million. The fourth and fifth place spots went to Disney's animated "Big Hero 6" and Paramount's space odyssey "Interstellar," which earned \$8.13 million and \$8.0 million respectively. "The Pyramid," Fox's R-rated horror film, just barely cracked the top 10 in its debut weekend with a less-than-stellar \$1.35 million from 589 locations.

"It's one of those status quo, boring weekends. But it's not boring in the specialized or indie world," Dergarabedian said. "For me that's where the excitement is." □

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Owner Benjamin Petrocchi

Tom Hanks, Sting among 5 Kennedy Center honorees

BRETT ZONGKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Her-alded as a musical genius who rose from a British ship-yard hometown to make his mark, Sting will receive the nation's highest hon- or Sunday for influencing

American culture through the arts.

Top performers and power players from Hollywood, Broadway and Washington have gathered to honor five artists who will receive this year's Kennedy Cen- ter Honors. Tom Hanks, Lily

Tomlin, singer Al Green and ballerina Patricia McBride will join Sting in receiving the arts prize.

Sting broke out in 1978 with his band The Police with such hits as "Roxanne" and later "Every Breath You Take" before start-



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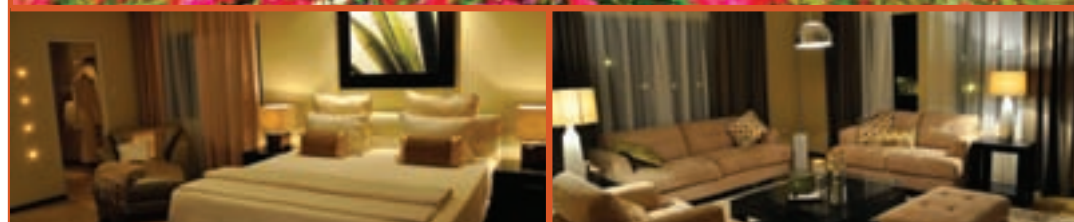


2014 Kennedy Center Honoree Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson pose for photos on the red carpet at the State Department Dinner for the Kennedy Center Honors on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014 at the State Department in Washington.

(AP Photo/Kevin Wolf)



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ing his solo career. He has been performing for four decades and has won 16 Grammy Awards.

Bruce Springsteen, who of-fered a toast for Sting at a State Department dinner Saturday, said the breadth and depth of Sting's tal-ents are intimidating as he crosses from folk music to jazz, classical, pop, rock and reggae. On Tuesday, Sting will join the Broadway cast of "The Last Ship," his musical about his home-town.

"Sting makes me feel like a musical Neanderthal. When we get together, we always have the same argument. He insists that there are more than three chords, while I insist that there are not," Springsteen said. "In an age of musical homogenization, no one has ever sounded or sang like my friend."

Sting, 63, told The Associ-ated Press he was bewil-dered by the honor.

"You know, for an English-man to receive this reward, it's not unique, but it's rare, and I take that pretty seri-

ously," he said. "To come to this country in 1978 with no prospects at all and then to end up here with the secretary of state, it's quite a journey. So I don't take it for granted." President Barack Obama will salute the honorees Sunday at the White House before a gala performance in their honor hosted by co-median Stephen Colbert. The show will be broadcast Dec. 30 on CBS.

Filmmaker George Stevens Jr., who created the Ken-nedy Center Honors and produces the show each year, said Hanks, 58, stands apart as "one of the great actors of his generation or any generation."

Hanks created powerful characters in films that in-clude "Philadelphia," "For-est Gump," "Apollo 13," "Saving Private Ryan" and 2013's "Captain Phillips."

"Each one was shaped by the same man's imagina-tion," Stevens said. "Each one has clarity, honesty, hu-mor, humanity, and each one has a deep sense of hope and aspiration." □

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